A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

PUBLISHED BY
THE TENNESSEE
ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

JUNE 2001
VOL. 72, NO. 2

THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGY

PUBLISHED BY

THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The T.O.S. is a non-profit, educational, scientific, and conservation organization.

CURRENT DIRECTORY

(Revised December 2001)

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: Christopher J.E. Welsh, 5337 Hickory Hollow Rd, Knoxville, TN 37919 <cwelsh@utk.edu>

Assistant Editor: Charles P. Nicholson, Box 402, Norris, TN 37828 <cpnichol@bellsouth.net>

State Count Compiler: Ron Hoff, 282 Hackworth Lane, Clinton, TN 37716 <dollyron@icx.net>

Season Editor: Richard L. Knight, 804 North Hills Dr., Johnson City, TN 37604 <rKnight@preferred.com>

Regional Season Editors:

Western Coastal Plain: W. Robert Peeples, 8205 Meadow Glen Dr., Germantown, TN 38138 <wpeeples@midsouth.rr.com>

Highland Rim and Basin: Phillip D. Casteel, 2722 Bobby Ave., Nashville, TN 37216 <tigerwrblr@aol.com>

Eastern Ridge and Valley: Richard L. Knight, 804 N. Hills Rd., Johnson City, TN 37604 <rKnight@preferred.com>

Eastern Mountain: Richard P. Lewis, 407 V.I. Ranch Rd., Bristol, TN 37620 <mountainbirds@email.com>

Editorial Assistant: Angela Wampler, 295 Essex Dr., Bluff City, TN 37618 <aswampler@earthlink.net>

OFFICERS FOR 2001-2003

President: Charles P. Nicholson, Box 402, Norris, TN 37828

Vice Presidents: East Tenn. - Allan Trently, 6319 Kingsport Highway, Apt. 88, Gray, TN 37615
Middle Tenn. - Elizabeth O'Connor, 201 Cambridge Place, Franklin, TN 37067
West Tenn. - Sue Ferguson, 5340 Canewood Ave., Memphis, TN 38134-5304

Directors-at-Large: East Tenn. - Dee Eiklor, 577 Liberty Church Rd., Gray, TN 37615
Middle Tenn. - Dr. Stephen Routledge, 1515 N. Willow Bend Ct., Clarksville, TN 37043
West Tenn.: Donna Ward, 38 Georgia Ave., McKenzie, TN 38201

Secretary: O. Knox Martin, 1176 Dearing Rd., Memphis, TN 38116-6148

Treasurer: David J. Trently, 1029 Morrow Rd., Knoxville, TN 37923

Curator: Charles P. Nicholson, Box 402, Norris, TN 37828-0402

Associate Curator: Ron Hoff, 282 Hackworth Lane, Clinton, TN 37716

Tennessee Warbler (TOS Newsletter) Editor: Theresa M. Graham, P.O. Box 366, Oakland, TN 38060, (901) 465-4263, Fax (901) 748-9200 <2graham@bellsouth.net>

The TOS website can be found at: www.tnbirds.org

Send subscriptions & address changes to:

Tennessee Ornithological Society, Box 10452, Knoxville, TN 37939-0452

Printed by: Russell Printing Options, 1800 Grand Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916

Copyright ©2001 by the Tennessee Ornithological Society — ISSN 0026-3575575

THE MIGRANT

Published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society
to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Tennessee.
Issued in March, June, September, and December.

VOL. 72 June 2001 NO. 2

The Migrant 72 (2): 49-56, 2001.

DEMOGRAPHICS, ATTITUDES AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PEOPLE ATTENDING AN EAST TENNESSEE BIRDING FESTIVAL

DAVID A. ABORN
Dept. of Biological and Environmental Sciences
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Chattanooga, TN 37403-2598

ABSTRACT. Numbers of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) staging and overwintering at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in eastern Tennessee have been increasing over the last 30-40 years. The increase in crane numbers has led to a large increase in birdwatchers coming to view the cranes. To better understand the demographics, attitudes, and economic impact of people coming to view the cranes, I conducted a survey of visitors at the 2001 crane festival in Birchwood. The results may help forecast attendance in the future and assist with both visitor management and crane management at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge. Of the 150 surveys distributed, 68 were returned. Results of the Birchwood surveys are similar to results from surveys of crane festivals in Nebraska. Most people attending the Birchwood festival were female, Caucasian, over 50 years old, college educated, and had an average annual income over $40,000. The Birchwood festival generated $25,000 in revenues. If the eastern Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) reintroduction is successful, however, the economic impact of birdwatchers in the region could be substantially increased. Recommendations are made as to how best to accommodate the additional visitors while at the same time maintaining visitor satisfaction.

INTRODUCTION

Ecotourism, the travel by individuals or groups for the purpose of viewing or experiencing plants, animals, or environments (Burger et al. 1995), can bring large sums of money into local economies and increase employment, thereby providing incentives to protect natural areas. One report states that as of 1996, 63 million adults in the United States participated in nonconsumptive outdoor recreation,

spending over $29 billion (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1997). It is clear that ecotourism is popular, lucrative, and potentially beneficial to nations and municipalities taking advantage of ecotourism.

One of the most popular activities of recreationists and ecotourists is bird watching. According to the American Birding Association, there were over 50 million bird watchers in the United States in 1996 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1997, Streiffert 1998). Those birders spent over $14 billion on equipment, clothing, travel, and other associated expenses (Streiffert 1998). Bird watching brings in higher revenues than other ecotourism activities because it is popular among older people, who generally have greater time and financial resources to engage in this activity (Leones et al. 1998). In addition, since bird watching is best done in the early morning and late afternoon, birders like to stay in lodging close to their intended bird watching site (Leones et al. 1998). This means that local economies benefit more from bird watching than from activities where people do not mind longer commutes to their destination. Several recent studies have examined the economic benefits bird watchers have had on the economy of four areas in the United States (Weidner and Kerlinger 1990, Lingle 1991, Eubanks et al. 1993, Kerlinger and Brett 1995). These locations are visited by almost 240,000 bird watchers annually, generating almost $55,000,000 in local revenues (Kerlinger and Brett 1995). Not coincidentally, the four locations studied also happen to be major migratory corridors and stopover sites for raptors, songbirds, and cranes, avian families that are popular among birders.

Numbers of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) staging and overwintering at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in eastern Tennessee have been increasing over the last 30-40 years. Published records from the 1960s and 1970s reported crane numbers ranging from 2 to 400 (DeVore 1980). Today, cranes at the refuge can number as many as 12,000 during the winter as a result of corn planting for waterfowl, and the refuge is now the second largest crane staging area east of the Mississippi River. The increase in crane numbers has led to a large increase in birdwatchers coming to view the cranes, and has also resulted in the state listing the birds as a species in need of management. Each February for the last 10 years, the nearby town of Birchwood, Tennessee has held a weekend crane festival. The festival attracts 5,000-10,000 people, both from Tennessee and out-of-state (Meigs County Department of Tourism, pers. comm.). Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge also figures prominently in the planned flights of juvenal Whooping Cranes (*Grus americana*) from Wisconsin to Florida in an attempt to reestablish an eastern migratory population of that endangered species. If a migratory population of Whooping Cranes is established and if they use Hiwassee as a staging area, the number of visitors to the refuge can be expected to increase dramatically. To better understand the demographics, attitudes, and economic impact of people coming to view the cranes, I conducted a survey of visitors at the crane festival in Birchwood. The results may help forecast attendance in the future, and assist with both visitor management and crane management at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge.

METHODS

Visitor surveys were distributed at the 9th Annual Sandhill Crane and Cherokee Heritage Festival held on 3 February 2001 at the Birchwood Elementary School. I placed 50 surveys at each of the two visitor registration tables, as well as at the bus departure point that took people from the school to the crane viewing area at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge. Each of these surveys had a self-addressed stamped envelope attached to it to facilitate their return. An additional 50 surveys without envelopes were set out at an exhibit table promoting membership in the Tennessee Ornithological Society. All the surveys clearly stated that participation was completely voluntary and anonymous. All 150 self-addressed surveys had been taken by the end of the festival, as had 18 of the non-addressed surveys.

The surveys queried visitors as to the number of times they had attended the festival, where they came from, the number of people they came with, how they heard about the festival, their satisfaction and likelihood of returning, how the possibility of Whooping Cranes might affect their likelihood of returning, how increased crowds as a result of Whooping Cranes might affect their likelihood of returning, their spending habits during their visit, their gender, age, ethnicity, education level, income, and their level of bird watching activity. With regard to their level of birding skills and activities, participants were asked to rate themselves as "Non-birders," "Casual Birders," "Active Birders" or "Committed Birders" (see Appendix). The definitions of these terms were taken from other birding surveys, and were provided on the forms.

RESULTS

Of the 150 self-addressed surveys distributed, 45% (n = 68) were returned. None of the non-addressed surveys were returned. For most respondents (63%), this was their first visit to the festival. For those making a repeat visit, the average number of times they had attended the festival was three. The vast majority of people (85%) had come from within 100 miles of the local area. Those having traveled farther distances came from Tennessee, Georgia, and Indiana. On average, there were five people per party. Over half (59%) of visitors heard about the festival from newspapers, followed by friends (18%), local bird clubs (6%), and television (3%). Most people (83%) rated their experience with the festival as "very satisfying," with the remainder rating the experience as "moderately satisfying." Over three-fourths of respondents said they would return to the festival next year. Another 69% said that the possibility of seeing Whooping Cranes would make them more likely to return to the festival, and 75% said that Whooping Cranes would make them more likely to return to the area aside from the festival. When asked about the possibility of increased crowds coming to view Whooping Cranes, 81% said it would not deter them from returning to the refuge, whereas 7% said it might deter them, and 12% said it would definitely deter them from returning. Of the people responding that they would be deterred by crowds, half (4/8) rated their experience at the festival as being only "moderately satisfying."

On average, visitors to the festival spent only one day within 100 miles of the local area. Most respondents (70%) had no other activities planned during their trip. Of those who had scheduled other activities during their trip, 70% planned on sightseeing in nearby Chattanooga, Tennessee; 50% planned on visiting family in the area; and 40% planned on shopping in Chattanooga and other nearby areas (respondents could mark more than one activity). During their trip, respondents spent an average of $25.00, mostly on food, gasoline, and souvenirs. If that expenditure is taken to be per party, rather than per person, and 5,000 people attended the festival, then the total revenue generated by the festival was $25,000 (5,000 people ÷ 5 people per party X $25.00 spent per party).

The average age of respondents was 59 years, and two-thirds were female. Racial composition was predominantly Caucasian (88%), with 2% being Hispanic, 2% being Native American, and 8% characterizing themselves as "Other." Most respondents were well educated, with 88% having either a college or graduate school education. Over half of people responding were retired. Only 58 of the 68 respondents answered the question regarding their household pre-tax income. Of those, 50% earned between $30,000 and $60,000. About half of respondents lived in suburban areas, 30% lived in rural or farm communities, and 19% lived in urban areas.

When asked about their bird watching activities, 68% characterized themselves as "Casual Birders," and 28% as "Active Birders." Only 4% considered themselves to be "Non-birders," and only one person responded as a "Committed Birder." The average length of time respondents had been birding was 17 years. On average, participants had taken four trips within the last year specifically to bird or view wildlife, spending an average of two days on each trip. Within the last year, respondents spent an average of four days birding in the Chattanooga area, four days birding elsewhere in Tennessee, two days birding in the United States aside from Tennessee, and spent one day birding abroad. Almost all (90%) of respondents considered themselves to be less skilled than other birders, with the remainder considering their birding skills equal to that of others. Very few respondents belonged to any sort of local, state, or national birding or conservation organizations.

DISCUSSION

Despite having a low sample size, the results of the Birchwood surveys are similar to results from surveys of other birding festivals (Hvenegaard et al. 1989, Weidner and Kerlinger 1990, Kerlinger and Brett 1995, Kim et al. 1998). The number of survey returns from other festivals ranges from 350 to 2,000, and return rates vary from 30% to 65%. Of particular interest is the economic impact crane viewing areas have along the Platte River in Nebraska (Lingle 1991, Eubanks et al. 2000). Each spring, hundreds of thousands of Sandhill Cranes utilize the Platte River during their northward migration. Endangered Whooping Cranes may also be seen amongst the sandhills. Such a spectacle of cranes and other waterfowl draws 80,000 people to the region each year, who spend $15 million annually (Lingle 1991). Most crane watchers going to the Platte River are older, college educated, and have an average annual income over $50,000 (Table 1). The average number of people per

party is 5, and the average length of stay is three days (Table 1). All these figures are in close agreement with those I obtained from the Tennessee crane festival. In addition, the gender of respondents is biased towards females, and many visitors report that they are not serious birders. The increase in participation by women and casual birders are two trends that differ from surveys conducted during the 1980s and early 1990s (e.g. Hvenegaard et al. 1989, Weidner and Kerlinger 1990), but have become increasingly common in surveys taken more recently (e.g. Kim et al. 1998, Eubanks et al. 2000).

Table 1. A Comparison of visitor demographics at Sandhill Crane viewing areas in Tennessee and Nebraska.

	Tennessee (n = 68)	**Nebraska (n = 1,609)**
Average age (yrs)	59	53
Predominant race	Caucasian	Caucasian
Predominant gender	Female	Female
Average education level	College	College
Average income	$40,000+	$50,000+
Average spending per visit	$25.00/respondent	$70-$285/person
# of people in party	5	5
Length of stay	1 day	3 days
# of birding trips in past year	4	7
# of years birding	17	18

There was, however, one notable discrepancy from the Platte River surveys. Visitors to the Platte River spent anywhere from $70.00 to $285.00 per person per visit, 3 to 11 times more than visitors in Tennessee. Much of the difference in spending habits is likely the result of visitors to the Birchwood festival predominantly being from the local area, whereas the Platte River and other birding festivals draw many visitors from outside the local area. If Whooping Cranes start frequenting Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, then the number of non-local and out-of-state visitors coming to the area will likely increase. As indicated by respondents to the Birchwood survey, people will not only be more likely to attend the crane festival, but will be more likely to visit at other times as well. The increased visitation by non-local birders, and the fact that many of them would come at times other than the crane festival suggests that crane viewing would have a greater economic impact on the local municipalities than is currently realized. Since two-thirds of respondents who had planned other activities noted that they intended to sightsee and shop, these industries would see increased revenues. However, out-of-town and especially out-of-state visitors would probably stay in the area for more than one day, meaning that the hotel/motel and food service industries would also benefit. Thus, while the Birchwood crane festival will likely continue to bring some revenue to the region, success of the Whooping Crane reintroduction efforts should create significant economic benefit to Hamilton, Meigs, Rhea, and Bradley Counties.

An increase in visitation is not without its problems. The viewing area at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge is very small, and accommodating the larger number of people might prove difficult. As mentioned previously, about 20% of respondents said that increased crowds would either definitely or possibly deter them from returning, especially those that were only moderately satisfied by their experience at the festival. In addition, cranes are very wary, and appreciably larger crowds might repel cranes from the viewing area. The absence of cranes would reduce the number of visitors to the area, subsequently lessening the economic impact on the area. There are two ways in which congestion could be alleviated. First, the festival could be extended. Currently, the activities and exhibits at the school, and transportation to the refuge occur on a single Saturday. By having several crane viewing weekends over the course of the overwintering period, the crowds would be spread out over several days. A second option would be to have a second crane viewing area that could accommodate more people. Given the relatively small size of Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge (~2,500 acres), the lack of convenient access to other parts of the refuge, and lack of other areas with suitable visibility, additional viewing locations on the refuge are probably unfeasible. However, purchase of adjacent land, or the establishment of a site at the recently created Yuchi Wildlife Refuge would provide larger areas with good visibility and adequate access. In particular, the Yuchi refuge could boast sufficient numbers of cranes so as to maintain visitor satisfaction, and is sufficiently close to Birchwood that transportation would not be difficult. Additionally, attracting cranes to other areas might reduce the density of cranes at Hiwassee, alleviating the strain on resources for cranes and waterfowl at the refuge. Adding additional viewing areas would seem to be a viable long-term solution for accommodating larger numbers of visitors and improved crane management, but until proper facilities can be constructed, increasing the number of viewing days may be the best short-term solution.

Since most people heard about the festival from newspaper articles, event organizers should continue to publicize the crane viewing in both local and out-of state newspapers. To further promote the festival, however, organizers should encourage television stations to include the event in their broadcasts. In addition, the festival announcements should be sent not just to local bird clubs, but also to all bird and garden clubs around the region.

In conclusion, the Annual Sandhill Crane and Cherokee Heritage Festival generates significant revenue for the local area. However, the festival also has tremendous potential to generate substantially more revenue if more people can be accommodated and if Whooping Cranes begin using the area. Local governments and organizations should vigorously support both of these efforts. In addition, festival organizers and local businesses may want to offer incentives to come to the festival and work with the refuge to aid their conservation and management efforts. For example, crane pins could be made and sold for a modest price. Proceeds would go towards purchasing additional property, planting grain for the cranes, building new facilities, etc. At the same time, local businesses could offer discounts

to anyone wearing those pins. Personnel at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge have considered an "Adopt-A-Crane" program, where visitors who came to view the cranes at any time could pay a modest fee and receive a packet of crane information, photos, a window sticker, etc. Again, proceeds would go to the refuge to help them finance crane management. Efforts such as the ones I have mentioned are relatively simple and inexpensive, but at the same time would provide all interested parties with the opportunity to maximize the benefits that crane viewing has to offer.

LITERATURE CITED

BURGER, J., M. GOCHFELD, and L. J. NILES. 1995. Ecotourism and birds in coastal New Jersey: contrasting responses of birds, tourists, and managers. *Environmental Conservation* 22:56-65.

DEVORE, J. E. 1980. Status of the Sandhill Crane in Tennessee. *The Migrant* 51:45-53.

EUBANKS, T., P. KERLINGER, and R. H. PAYNE. 1993. High Island, Texas: a case study in avitourism. *Birding* 25:415-420.

EUBANKS, T., R. B. DITTON, and J. R. STOLL. 2000. Platte River Nature Recreation Study: The economic impact of wildlife watching on the Platte River in Nebraska. Fermata, Inc. web page, http://fermatainc.com/eco_nebplatte.html.

HVENEGAARD, G. T., J. R. BUTLER, and D. K. KRYSTOFIAK. 1989. Economic values of bird watching at Point Pelee National Park, Canada. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 17:526-531.

KERLINGER, P., and J. BRETT. 1995. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary: a case study of birder visitation and birding economics. Pp. 271-280 *In* Wildlife and recreationists: coexistence through management and research (R. L. Knight and K. J. Gutzwiller, eds.). Island Press, Washington, D.C.

KIM, C., D. SCOTT, J. F. THIGPEN, and S. KIM. 1998. Economic impact of a birding festival. *Festival Management and Event Tourism* 5:51-58.

LEONES, J., B. COLBY, and K. CRANDALL. 1998. Tracking expenditures of the elusive nature tourists of southeastern Arizona. *Journal of Travel Research* 36:56-64.

LINGLE, G. R. 1991. History and economic impact of crane-watching in central Nebraska. Proceedings of the North American Crane Workshop 6:25-29.

STREIFFERT, K. G. 1998. Birding and ecotourism. *Living Bird* 17:28-33.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. 1997. 1996 national and state economic impacts of wildlife watching. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC.

WIEDNER, D. S., and P. KERLINGER. 1990. Economics of birding: a national survey of active birders. *American Birds* 44:209-213.

APPENDIX. DESCRIPTIONS OF BIRDING LEVELS

Non-birder: A person without any interest in watching birds.

Casual birder: A person whose birding is incidental to other travel and other outdoor interests, who may not belong to a formal birding organization, who may read bird-related articles in the newspaper, but does not subscribe to birding publications, who keeps no life list, and for whom birding is an enjoyable but inconsistent activity.

Active birder: A person who travels away from home infrequently specifically to bird, who may or may not belong to a local birding organization, who subscribes to general interest birding publications, who participates in local field trips and meetings, who keeps a general life list, and for whom birding is an important but not an exclusive activity.

Committed birder: A person who is willing to travel on short notice to see a rare bird, who subscribes to birding publications that specialize on bird identification and birding locations, who leads field trips for local bird clubs, who keeps a detailed life list, as well as other lists (e.g. year list, state list, etc.), who purchases increasing amounts of equipment to help attract, record, and/or see birds, and for whom birding is a primary activity.

The Migrant 72 (2): 57-59, 2001.

MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2001 TOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Spring Meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) was held on 4-6 May, 2001, at Paris Landing State Park, hosted by the Nashville Chapter. In addition to the meeting of the Directors, field trips were taken to Land Between the Lakes, Britton Ford, the Big Sandy Unit of TWRA (Pace Point area), Keel Springs Nature Trail, and Cross Creek NWR. We also had a chance to meet Troy Ettel, the new State Ornithologist, as well as Gary Myers, Director of TWRA. The meeting of the TOS Directors was called to order by President Chris Sloan. Secretary Knox Martin reported a quorum present. Copies of the Fall meeting were available for members to read. The president decided to postpone approval of the minutes until later in the meeting so members could have a chance to review them.

REPORT OF OFFICERS. No reports.

DIRECTORS AT LARGE. No reports.

SECRETARY'S REPORT. No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Treasurer David Trently reported that as of 4 May, 2001, the TOS total assets stood at $215,709.04, expenses for the period of 5 May, 2000 through 4 May, 2001 were $20,441.00, and income for the same period was $23,739.27.

President Chris Sloan brought up the question of clarification of exactly how the number of directors for each chapter is determined. In the past the rule was one director for every 10 members up to a total of five. A member was considered a single unit, even if it was a family membership. It would be possible for a club with several family memberships to qualify for more directors if each member of the family membership was counted individually. It was pointed out by Secretary Knox Martin that perhaps the rule should be changed to allow one director for every ten memberships. Nobody was sure how this rule was written in the bylaws. Most chapters had used memberships, not individual members, when determining their directors. Melinda Welton made a motion to continue choosing directors the same way it had been done until the TOS Constitution can be reviewed, and, if a change is needed, to bring it up at the next state meeting. A second was made by Dick Preston and the vote of the directors was unanimous to adopt this resolution. It is also important that the secretary know who the chapter directors are, when they are elected, and how long they serve. The chapter should notify the secretary as well as the Editor of *The Warbler* and the Editor of *The Migrant*. Since most chapters hold elections at different times of the year, it is important to notify the necessary officers after each election. One simple way would be to post officers on the TOS website. Current information of both local chapter officers and members is important. Try a little harder in the future.

CURATOR. No report.

THE MIGRANT. Dev Joslin reported that he has only one more issue as editor. He will then be followed by new Editor Chris Welsh. The Directors thanked Dev for a job well done.

THE WARBLER. Editor Theresa Graham reported that the deadline for articles for the August issue of *The Warbler* is 30 June, 2001. Chris Sloan reported that he had been approached about the possibility of selling advertisements in *The Warbler*. If we do accept advertising, what do we charge, what type of ads do we accept? Ron Hoff pointed out that while advertising would be okay for *The Warbler*, it should not be accepted for *The Migrant*. Chuck Nicholson made a motion to accept advertising in *The Warbler* as long as it was camera-ready, and as long as it was acceptable to the editor of *The Warbler* and any other officer she asks. A second was made by Martha Waldron. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE. Chris Sloan announced that the next slate of officers would be announced at the banquet. Ron Hoff of the committee pointed out that Treasurer David Trently would stay on for a few more years, but he would like to step down in the future, so a new treasurer will be needed. If you have any interest in following David, please see Ron.

FINANCE COMMITTEE. There is no committee formed at this time, but Chris Sloan pointed out that there is an annual disclosure form to be filled out by all 501c3 non-profit organizations. TOS has failed to file this form 990 for the past several years. We need to look into this matter.

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE. No report.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE. Chuck Nicholson reports that the website is receiving a total of 93 hits per day. Please keep chapter information up to date. TOS has gotten five or six new members from the site.

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH FUNDING COMMITTEE. Melinda Welton reported on a mid-year award given to Michael Welsh for doing point counts in the Rocky Ford area of Unicoi County. Melinda also reported that the committee would like to make a change to the resolution that created the Conservation and Research Funding Committee. The way it was originally written was that either at the Spring or Fall meetings any grants for amounts greater than $1000 would be submitted to the full board. The board would then vote on the grant. In order to keep the timing more in tune with both the field season in Tennessee and the academic year, the committee would suggest changing the time to an early Winter decision where the board would then be sent copies of any proposals that the committee is recommending for funding with a deadline to hear back from board members if they do not think the proposal is worthy of funding. If a member does not object, then it will be considered as an approval. What is needed is an amendment to the governing resolution stating that approval for grants greater than $1000 can happen at any time of year with approval by the board. The board will be notified by email or regular mail, and if a member does not reply it will be considered as an approval. The deadline for large grants will be 15 January. The committee will circulate the proposals and make the recommendations and then send out to the full board on 7 February the grant that they would like approved so an announcement can be made by 1 March. A majority of the board can kill a proposal. Chris Sloan made a motion to amend the governing resolution for the Conservation and Research Fund to per

mit requests for grants of over $1000 to be approved or reviewed by the full board at any time of year and that approval will be noticed by email or conventional mail with an opportunity to object by a certain time after which you will be deemed to have approved it. The motion was seconded by Martha Waldron. After some discussion from the floor concerning time limits, positive or negative responses, number of responses, etc., Chris Sloan amended the motion to state that the directors have a minimum of two weeks to respond and also that at least a quorum must respond and a majority of those responding approve. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Jeff Barrie of the Alaska Coalition of Tennessee spoke on the possibility of drilling for oil at Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Broad support is needed to try and stop the drilling. A write-in campaign is needed. Membership applications for the coalition are also available for TOS members. Melinda Welton made a motion that TOS become a member of the Alaska Coalition of Tennessee. Ken Dubke seconded the motion. The vote of the directors to join was approved by unanimous vote.

Carolyn Bullock reported that patches and decals were still available for sale. A total of $127 has been made for TOS so far this year from the sale of patches and decals. Patches are $2.50 and decals are $3.00.

There is still no location for the Fall meeting although Knoxville is a possibility.

NEW BUSINESS. State Ornithologist Troy Ettel requested that all TOS members keep track of their hours of volunteering in birding projects. These hours can be used in funding requests as the federal government places a dollar amount on each volunteer hour. Use only TWRA project hours for Troy.

Treasurer David Trently made a correction to the expenses as shown on his report. The new amount for total expenses is $19,255.06.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with minor corrections.

Melinda Welton reported on a new atlas project for the Golden-winged Warbler. If you know of nesting sites, or if you would be interested in volunteering with this atlas project, please see Melinda.

Is there any interest in the possibility of TOS starting a birding partnership with the Dominican Republic or Guatemala? What is involved in a partnership? Is it financial? Is it technical? Partners in Flight is encouraging this type of partnership among birding groups. Maybe this would be a topic for discussion at the Fall meeting. Maybe the Conservation Committee should look into it and make a proposal at the Fall meeting. Is there any interest by TOS to explore the possibilities of a partnership? Melinda will give a short talk at the Fall meeting about this project.

Chuck Nicholson reported that there are several routes open in West Tennessee for the BBS. These are Bob Ford's old routes. If you would like to take over one of these routes, see Chuck for details.

Ron Hoff made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dev Joslin. The motion to adjourn was approved.

Knox Martin
Recording Secretary

The Migrant 72 (2): 60, 2001.

2001 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: DR. FRED ALSOP, III

CHRIS SLOAN
512 Old Hickory Blvd. #1203
Nashville, TN 37209

The Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) is proud to present the Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Fred Alsop, who personifies both "distinguished" and "service." Dr. Alsop is a widely known ornithologist, professor and wildlife photographer with more than 30 years of experience in the field. A native of Kentucky, he earned a bachelor of science degree in Biology and Fine Arts in 1964 from Austin Peay State University, where he studied biology under Dr. David Snyder. By his junior year, he was hooked on birds. His interest led him to the University of Tennessee where he earned his master's and his Ph.D. in zoology with an emphasis in ornithology. While a student at UT, he studied birds with Dr. James T. Tanner and Dr. Joe Howell, and, in 1966, he joined TOS, publishing his first article in *The Migrant* shortly thereafter.

Dr. Alsop is presently a distinguished professor in Biological Sciences at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee, and, for many years, he served as chair of ETSU's Biology Department. His research and field studies have taken him across 49 states, all of Canada (including the Arctic Circle), Mexico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador (including the Galapagos Islands), Trinidad and Tobago, Costa Rica and parts of Africa. His graduate students at ETSU work in many fields of wildlife management and research and teach at colleges and universities across the nation.

Dr. Alsop's photographs regularly appear in prestigious publications such as *Audubon, Natural History, Sierra Club, National Geographic, National Wildlife, American Birds* and *Reader's Digest*, and he has published more than 100 articles and notes on birds in scientific journals in the U.S., Canada, and England, including regular contributions to *World Book Encyclopedia*. His first published bird book was *Birds of the Smokies*, which received the National Park Service's National Award for Best Book in 1991. He is also the author of two recently-published field guides: *Smithsonian Handbook Birds of North America: Western Region* and *Smithsonian Handbooks: Birds of North America: Eastern Region*.

Dr. Alsop has served TOS in a variety of local and state capacities dating back to 1969, when he began the first of three terms as president of the Knoxville chapter. He later served as president of the Lee and Lois Herndon Chapter, and as a state Season Report editor of *The Migrant*.

2001 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: SUSAN McWHIRTER

MARTHA WALDRON
1626 Yorkshire Dr.
Memphis, TN 38119

Susan McWhirter credits her years of childhood camping vacations and her mother's natural curiosity about the birds the family encountered (and tried to identify with an early Golden Guide) as the beginning of her love of birding. After years on her own she realized she had reached a plateau and needed help in expanding her abilities. Upon the advice of Arlo Smith, her father's colleague at Rhodes College and a long-time member of TOS, she joined the Memphis Chapter in 1981.

Susan describes those first meetings and chapter hikes as incredible experiences, and, with the help of such mentors as Noreen and Arlo Smith, Ben and Lula Coffey, and Martha Waldron, she says her life list expanded dramatically along with her appreciation and knowledge of ornithology. As her participation in TOS grew, she began helping with breeding bird counts, the Memphis Chapter's eagle hacking project at Reelfoot Lake, the breeding bird atlas, forays, and served several offices including chapter president 1993-1995.

She has participated in point counts for the past six years and has written articles for *The Migrant*. In 1990 she took on the job of state count compiler for *The Migrant* and continued in this position until 1994. She has served as a state director and member of the state nominating committee, and from 1997-1999 she served as state president. Susan and her husband, Mac, (who helped the Coffeys band Chimney Swifts at the age of six) now spend much of their free time at their farm in Rock Island where they regularly add to the bird records of Warren County.

The Migrant 72 (2): 62-64, 2001.

BOOK REVIEW: *BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA: LIFE HISTORIES OF MORE THAN 930 SPECIES*

Charlie Muise
9068 Tremont Rd.
Townsend, TN 37882

Birds of North America: Life Histories of More than 930 Species by Fred J. Alsop III. DK Publishing, New York, NY. 2001 1008 pages. $60.00

As publishers recognize the ever-increasing number of birders and the money we are willing to spend on our interests, the number of field guides, natural history texts, and other bird-related books has grown rapidly in recent years. Unlike just a decade ago when there were few books for birders on the market, most of us now have to decide which books to get due to space in our homes or monetary constraints. We cannot own every field guide *and* every natural history text. Fortunately, there are some books out there that can fulfill one of these needs well, while assisting with the other. The Smithsonian's *Birds of North America*, written by Fred J Alsop III, is one of those books.

Ostensibly a three-book set, it is, in fact, two versions of the same book. There is a complete book by the above title, which has one-page life histories of the 922 species of birds (the cover says "more than 930") that had been recorded in North America as of the 2000 supplement to the 7th edition of the AOU checklist. This includes four extinct species and three "probably extinct" species, which have a section to themselves near the front. This book also contains a lot of information about birds and bird watching that is not directly related to identification. The other two books, *Birds of North America: Eastern* and *Birds of North America: Western*, are simply a version of the main book divided into east and west portions.

The full book is a valuable asset to any North American birder. It can be used to identify birds in one's yard or from memory, although it is too heavy and large to be used as a field guide. It is also a good book to study before going into the field. Its most valuable asset is its natural history content. In addition to the data presented in a typical field guide (i.e. picture, range map, habitat preferences) it relates other information about birds, including nesting, songs and population trends. Nest information includes the shape of the nest, where the nest is made, and of what materials. The population section includes trends and conservation issues for each species. A couple of sentences on behavior describe what, if any migration the species undertakes, how it feeds, and its social behavior.

There are some helpful identification points that are not found in most other field guides. Flight pattern is depicted in the diagrams that are further clarified by some text. This book lists length, wingspan and weight. This is valuable because total length is a very tricky item to use in the field, and weight is often more useful in separating similar species than a linear measurement. Another neat feature of

each species account is a book-to-bird silhouette, which helps demonstrate the size of the bird when compared to the book.

Other information prior to the species accounts includes "How To Be A Better Birder," which describes birding ethics and the value of taking notes. It also has a small contact list for important organizations such as the American Birding Association and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. The pages on bird silhouettes are among the best out there. They are large enough to be useful, positioned appropriately, and accompanied by a bit of descriptive text. There is a small but helpful section of brief definitions on terms related to abundance and distribution that many beginning birders confuse (e.g., irruptive, exotic, introduced and accidental). A couple of pages regarding backyard birds have the basics on attracting birds with food, water and shelter.

Some features are great for birders who have a working knowledge of taxonomy or would like to attain one. Like most quality field guides, this is organized in taxonomic order. There is a section prior to each order describing its traits in concise, simple terms, briefly explaining each of that order's families. The family account includes the number of species in North America and worldwide. For example, in Passeriformes one could find the family Laniidae, and learn that three of the world's 31 shrike species have been documented in North America. Each species account features a nice, unobtrusive bar at the top of the page that relates the family to which that species belongs.

Most of the weaknesses in this book relate to identification. While many experienced birders consider artwork superior to photography for identification purposes, this book uses photographs. One reason for this belief is that artwork is more consistent and easier for the bookmaker to manipulate for the user. Inconsistency is an issue with the photography in this book. There are a few birds that the author apparently could not obtain pictures of, such as the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. Some pictures are misleading or of low quality. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Wood Thrush photos were taken at poor angles which distort the shape of each, and give the thrush a very short-tailed appearance. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher looks entirely green, while the Oporornis warblers' heads are all too blue. Other pictures, such as the Northern Waterthrush and most of the shorebirds, are great.

Only one large picture is provided for most species, usually of a breeding male. Other plumages, such as winter, juvenile, or female of dimorphic species, are either not pictured or are less than an inch across, and most of those are over-simplified drawings. These weaknesses are magnified with the gulls. The European Starling, which commonly breeds throughout most of North America, is shown only in winter plumage. Although the text states that most North American sightings of Northern Lapwing are in winter, the photograph used is of a breeding bird. While there is a box on each page designed to help the user separate similar species, the artwork in that box is generally half an inch across — much too small to be of use.

It seems compromises were made between including lots of information, and reducing size. For instance the range maps are only 1.5 inches across, this small size seriously reduces their value. Another compromise is in the use of icons for habitat

and nest shape and location. Though they can relate a good deal of information, they are confusing. There are too many icons to remember, forcing the reader to constantly look them up. Nevertheless, it seems there are not enough. One icon is used to show savannah, prairie pothole and salt marsh. This gives the reader such an array of possible habitats that it is almost not worth having the icon. The icons are so small and lacking in detail that it is generally not possible to interpret one without looking it up — they are not self-evident.

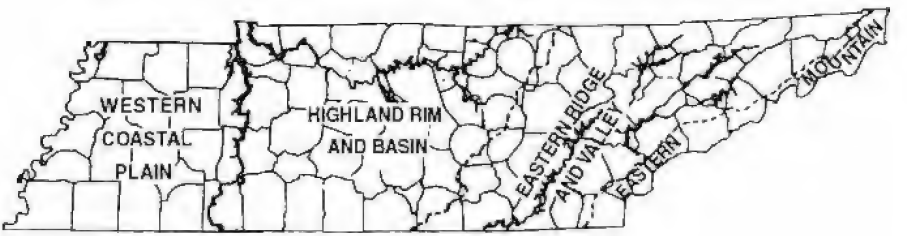
The two-book set is not as useful. It is simply a reduced version of the main book, split into east and west portions. Superficially, the east and west versions seem a viable alternative to the main book, since each is smaller and less expensive, and they feature a better choice of boundary (the 100th meridian) as compared to previous east-west splits. They retain the identification information found in the main book, so they could conceivably be used as field guides. However, there are serious drawbacks to the split set. Rather than being books unto themselves, they appear to be afterthoughts, composed of the same pages from the big book, which have simply been shrunk to fit a smaller binding. Though this has brought them almost to a field-worthy size, the smaller plates of these books makes the already small maps very hard to read, and decreases the usability of the photos. The smaller type may be a problem for some people. This may have been done to try to sell the split version as a field guide; however, the reduced size actually makes it harder to use, and is coupled with the above photography issues. Much of the interesting and useful information that the main book includes prior to the species accounts has been removed. That this set is an afterthought is demonstrated by the fact that the drawings that demonstrate ratio of book to bird were not changed. Because the reader is holding a different size book, those ratios are all wrong, making the birds look substantially smaller than they are.

Because of several flaws and inaccuracies, as well as size, cost and comparison to other guides, I cannot recommend the east or west version of this book. However, the full version of *Birds of North America* by Fred J. Alsop III is a truly informative book. If you are looking for a new book to learn about birds, prepare for a trip, or study a particular family, this one is full of good information and interesting facts and is worth the investment.

The Migrant 72 (2): 65-75, 2001.

THE WINTER SEASON

RICHARD L. KNIGHT, editor



1 DECEMBER 2000-28 FEBRUARY 2001

This winter's weather was characterized as cold in December and gradually warming by season's end, with slightly dry conditions statewide. For those who ventured out, it was an interesting season with a good mix of species encountered. American Tree Sparrows, Rough-legged Hawks, and Common Mergansers invaded from the north or northwest, reaching many areas. However, boreal finches were scarce; in fact, there was not a single report of Evening Grosbeak. Clearly, various factors were at play. Cold and snow cover in the north may have caused the former species to wander south, whereas adequate food supplies up north likely kept the latter group from doing likewise.

A surprising number of Laughing Gulls appeared in two regions, and several other rare gulls were reported from the western region. A small flock of Smith's Longspurs wintered near Reelfoot Lake, to the delight of many observers. Two Calliope Hummingbirds patronized separate feeders in the east. A dead Trumpeter Swan found near Memphis had strayed from the Iowa reintroduction project. Several half-hardy species lingered into December, and a few early migrants arrived in February.

Tennessee's 23rd annual mid-winter eagle count was conducted 3-17 January 2001, with a tally of 391 Bald Eagles and three Golden Eagles (Table 1). Immatures comprised 43% of the total Bald Eagle count. When its count sections are combined, Kentucky Lake led all areas with 124 Bald Eagles, followed by Reelfoot Lake (75), Chickamauga Lake (63), and Dale Hollow Lake (58). These four lakes produced 82% of the statewide total. The increase of Bald Eagles on the mid-winter count is presented in Table 2. The data for these two tables was compiled by Robert M. Hatcher.

Standard Abbreviations

ad-adult	f-female	max-maximum count
CBC-Christmas Bird Count	fide-reported by	m.ob.-many observers
Co-County	im-immature	Pt-Point
Cr-Creek	Is-Island	NWR-National Wildlife Refuge
ers-earliest reported sighting	L-Lake	SP-State Park
et al.-and others	m-male	WMA-Wildlife Management Area

Table 1. Tennessee mid-winter eagle count, 2001.

	Bald Eagle			Golden Eagle
	adult	imm.	total	
West Tennessee				
Shelby Co. (misc.)	2	1	3	-
Reelfoot Lake	39	36	75	-
Hatchie/Lower Hatchie NWR	2	-	2	-
Lake Graham	1	-	1	-
LBL (KY Lake side)	14	12	26	-
Tenn. NWR (KY Lake)	38	56	94	-
KY Lake (non-federal)	4	-	4	-
Pickwick Lake	1	1	2	-
Beech River Basin	1	-	1	-
West Tennessee total	102	106	208	0
Middle Tennessee				
Barkley Lake	2	-	2	-
Cross Creeks NWR	2	1	3	1 imm.
Duck River	3	-	3	-
Cheatham Lake	1	2	3	-
Woods Reservoir	2	-	2	-
Center Hill Lake	1	-	1	-
Cordell Hull Lake	8	-	8	1 ad.
Tansi Lake	3	-	3	-
Dale Hollow Lake	34	24	58	-
Middle Tennessee total	56	27	83	2
East Tennessee				
Nickajack Lake	3	-	3	-
Chickamauga Lake	38	25	63	1 imm.
Watts Bar Lake	10	1	11	-
Ft. Loudoun Lake	2	2	4	-
French Broad River	1	-	1	-
Norris Lake	4	3	7	-
Melton Hill Lake	2	1	3	-
Douglas Lake	2	1	3	-
Cherokee Lake	1	-	1	-
South Holston Lake	2	1	3	-
Watauga Lake	-	1	1	-
East Tennessee total	65	35	100	1
Statewide total	223	168	391	3

Table 2. Summary of mid-winter counts of Bald Eagles in Tennessee (numbers are averages over 3-, 5- or 23-yr period).

Period	Bald Eagles	% Immature
1979-1983 (5-yr)	264	45
1984-1988 (5-yr)	261	34
1989-1993 (5-yr)	286	35
1994-1998 (5-yr)	376	36
1999-2001 (3-yr)	382	38
1979-2001 (23-yr)	308	37

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION — Winter began colder than usual and relatively dry. By January some normally numerous wintering species, such as Common Snipe and kinglets, had become rather difficult to find. February, however, was wetter and warmer than normal. There were reports of interesting species throughout the season. The Smith's Longspurs in Lake County were an excellent find, seen during the entire period by many observers. Lapland Longspurs staged an invasion, with especially large numbers in Lake County and on the Savannah CBC. American Tree Sparrows were unusually widespread and numerous, reported from eight West Tennessee counties. Furthermore, Rough-legged Hawks invaded, with reports from four counties. While Red-breasted Nuthatches were only reported as singles on three CBCs, and Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were found only sparingly, a Red Crossbill on the Savannah CBC was an unexpected bonus. There were several unusual gull species, including Laughing, Glaucous, and Great and Lesser Black-backed, mainly at Pickwick State Park or the Britton Ford/Big Sandy area. A Thayer's Gull at Pickwick would provide a first for the state, if accepted by the Tennessee Bird Records Committee.

Loon-Merganser: **Red-throated Loon:** 19/25 Feb (1) Port Rd. Overlook/Pace Pt., Henry Co (MCT/CAS, JD). **Pacific Loon:** 21 Dec-13 Feb (Pace Pt./Port Rd. Overlook, Henry Co (KL, NaM, MCT, JRW). **Horned Grebe:** 2 Dec (3) Mississippi R. bridge, Dyer Co (WGC, KL, NaM, MCT, JRW); 13 Dec (1) Orgill Park, Shelby Co (DDP); 30 Dec (1) Jackson CBC. **American White Pelican:** 1 Dec (60)/22 Jan (35) Reelfoot L (WGC); 5 Dec (2000) Robco L (WPP); 17 Dec (13) TVA Lake (VBR, MGW, Stephan Schoech); 26 Jan (17) Dyer Co (WGC); 10 Feb (1000) Reelfoot L (TOS); 20 Feb (100) Moss Is., Dyer Co (WGC); 25 Feb (80) Eagle Lake WMA (JRW). **Double-crested Cormorant:** 25 Feb (1000) Eagle Lake WMA (JRW), max. **Great Egret:** 9 Dec (4) White's L., Dyer Co (JRW); 23 Dec (1) TVA Lake (JRW). **Greater White-fronted Goose:** reported from Lake, Dyer, Lauderdale, Shelby, & Henry Cos.; max 222 on Reelfoot CBC 16 Dec. **Greater White-fronted X Canada Goose hybrid:** 23 Feb (1) Shelby Farms (VBR). **Snow Goose:** 21 Jan (3500) Lake & Dyer Cos. (JRW), max. **Ross's Goose:** 10 Dec (1) Lake Co (JRW); 31 Jan-7 Feb (1-2) Shelby Farms (JRW, m.ob.); 6 Feb (1) Moss Is., Dyer Co (WGC); 20 Feb (1) Lake Co (RDH, DM). Mute

Swan: 17 Dec (5) Memphis CBC; 1/12 Feb (1) Shelby Farms (VBR). **TRUMPETER SWAN:** 6 Jan (1, found dead) near Bolton, Shelby Co (Debbie & Billy Moore fide SCF), bird was tagged, had been released in Iowa as part of a reintroduction program. **Tundra Swan:** 14 Jan (1) Bessie, Lake Co (JRW, Jessee Livingston); present early Nov-Jan (7) Winchester Farm, Haywood Co (Derrick Heard, Peter Schutt), identified 29 Jan (JRW), seen thru 31 Jan (CHB, SCF, WRP, VBR); 8 Feb (7) Crockett Co (Glen Stanley). **Blue-winged Teal:** 26 Feb (1) Shelby Farms (WRP), ers; 28 Feb (6) Black Bayou (WGC). **Canvasback:** 26 Jan (2000) Britton Ford (MCT), max. **Greater Scaup:** 16 Dec (6) Reelfoot CBC; 7 Jan (1) Shelby Farms (WRP, CHB, VBR); 4-28 Feb (max 50 on 17th) TVA Lake (JRW, WRP, VBR); 19/25 Feb (7/1) Paris Landing SP, Henry Co (MCT/CAS, JD); 28 Feb (3) Robco L (WRP). **Long-tailed Duck:** 2 Dec (2) Mississippi R., Lake Co (JRW, MCT). **Common Goldeneye:** 20 Jan (900) Big Sandy (JRW), max. **Common Merganser:** 28 Dec (1) Heloise (WGC); 8-17 Jan (1-3) Reelfoot L (WGC); 20 Jan (26) Big Sandy (JRW); 4 Feb (1) Pickwick SP (Terry Witt). **Red-breasted Merganser:** 25 Feb (30) Benton Co (CAS, JD), max.

Eagle-Sandpiper: **Bald Eagle:** 12 Dec-25 Feb (up to 2 ad, 1 im) Shelby Co (Knox Martin, DDP, MGW, JRW); 29 Dec/26 Jan (2 ad at nest) Dyer Co (WGC). **"Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk:** 12 Jan (1) Black Bayou (MCT); 19 Feb (1) Britton Ford (MCT). **Red-tailed Hawk:** 13 Jan (104) EARTH Complex (Knox Martin, MGW), max. **Rough-legged Hawk:** 1 Dec-16 Jan (1 dark, 1 light) Lake Co (WGC, MAG, KL, NaM, MCT, JRW); 30 Dec (1 dark) Jackson CBC; 31 Dec-19 Feb (1-2 light) Dyer Co (WGC, KL, JRW); 6 Jan (1 dark) Fayette Co (MCT). **Golden Eagle:** Nov-4 Feb (1-2) Big Sandy (JRW, MCT). **Merlin:** 2 Dec (1) Ridgley, Lake Co (KL); 28 Dec (2) Savannah CBC; 7 Jan (1) Shelby Farms (WRP); 14 Jan (1) Black Bayou (KL); 20 Jan (1) Big Sandy (JRW); 12 Feb (1) Cates, Lake Co (KL); 14 Feb (1) Pickwick SP (MCT). **Sandhill Crane:** 30 Dec (6) Jackson CBC; 8-9 Feb (10-16) near Wynnburg, Lake Co (Bettie Sumara, NaM, JRW et al.); 20 Feb (3) Dyer Co (KL); all period (400, max) Hop-In Refuge, Obion Co (fide David Pitts). **American Golden-Plover:** 6/10 Dec (1) Shelby Farms (CHB, SCF, WPP, WRP, VBR, BHW/WRP). **Black-bellied Plover:** 1-9 Dec (1) Everett L (WGC, JRW). **Semipalmated Plover:** 1-11 Dec (1) Everett L (WGC, JRW). **Greater Yellowlegs:** 1-7 Dec (2) Dyer Co (WGC); 28 Jan (1)/25 Feb (3) Eagle Lake WMA (VBR/JRW); 20 Feb (1) Black Bayou (WGC, KL); 28 Feb (19) Lake Co (WGC). **Lesser Yellowlegs:** 20 Feb (1) Lake Co (WGC, KL), ers. **Western Sandpiper:** 1-9 Dec (1-3) Everett L (WGC, JRW). **Least Sandpiper:** 28 Jan (4) Eagle Lake WMA (VBR); 17 Feb (4) EARTH Complex (VBR); 2 Dec (130), 21 Jan (12), 6 Feb (20) Dyer Co (WGC, JRW, MCT), monthly highs at wintering site. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** 7-16 Dec (1) Heloise (WGC). **Dunlin:** 7 Dec (33)/1 Feb (2) Heloise (WGC).

Gull-Hummingbird: **Laughing Gull:** 23 Dec (1 ad) McKellar L, Shelby Co (JRW); 3/4 Feb (2 ad/1 im) Pickwick SP (CAS, JRW, Terry Witt); 19 Feb (1) Paris Landing SP, Henry Co (MCT). **Ring-billed Gull:** 27-28 Jan (7000) Pickwick SP (JRW), max. **Herring Gull:** 27-28 Jan (68) Pickwick SP (JRW), max. **THAYER'S GULL:** 28 Jan/3 Feb (1 im) Pickwick SP (JRW, CAS). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 22 Dec (1) Big Sandy (Rick Waldrop); 28 Feb (1 ad) Britton Ford (MCT, Don Manning). **Glaucous Gull:**

25/26 Feb (1 im) Britton Ford (CAS, JD/PDC, Jan Shaw, Hazel Cassel). **Great Black-backed Gull:** 26 Feb (1) Britton Ford (PDC, Hazel Cassel, Jan Shaw). **Forster's Tern:** 17/24 Feb (7/8) Robco L (JRW). **Eurasian Collared-Dove:** 1 Dec (1) Union City, Obion Co (MCT); 17 Dec (1) Memphis CBC; 14 Jan (12) Tiptonville, Lake Co (JRW), max; 21 Feb (6) Orgill Park, Shelby Co (WRP, VBR, SCF); Jan-Feb (1) Munford, Tipton Co (DDP); summer 2000-Feb (2) Bartlett, Shelby Co (Gaynell Perry). **Short-eared Owl:** 10 Dec-22 Feb (up to 9) Lake Co (JRW, KL, WGC, NaM, m.ob.); 28 Dec (1) Savannah CBC; 4 Jan-23 Feb (up to 17 on 6 Feb) Dyer Co (WGC, KL); 6 Jan (1) Wolf River WMA, Fayette Co (MGW, Susan McWhirter). ***Selasphorus* sp:** Oct-30 Dec (1) Memphis (Laura Malinick/CHB, VBR); mid Nov-17 Dec (1) Memphis (Ronnie & Peggy Haynes).

Vireo-Warbler: **Blue-headed Vireo:** 17 Dec (1) Memphis CBC. **Fish Crow:** 30 Dec (2) Jackson CBC; 24 Jan (1) Shelby Forest (WRP); 10 Feb (2) Overton Park, Shelby Co (Margaret Jefferson, Ed Thomas), several reports in this Co. after this date; 20 Feb (1) Lake Co (RDH, DM). **Horned Lark:** 16 Dec (1354) Reelfoot CBC; 17 Dec (1335) Memphis CBC; max. **Purple Martin:** 24 Feb (1) Robco L (JRW) & 24 Feb (1) Trenton, Gibson Co (MAG), ers. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** singles on the Reelfoot CBC (16 Dec), Savannah CBC (28 Dec), & Jackson CBC (30 Dec), only reports. **Brown-headed Nuthatch:** 28 Dec (6) Pickwick SP on Savannah CBC; 14 Feb (1) Pickwick SP (MCT). **House Wren:** 28 Dec (1) Savannah CBC. **Marsh Wren:** 16 Dec (1) Reelfoot CBC. **European Starling:** 30 Dec (500,000) Jackson CBC, max. **American Pipit:** 28 Dec (677) Savannah CBC, max. **Cedar Waxwing:** 18 Feb (500) Gibson Co (MAG), max. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** 16 Dec (1) Reelfoot CBC; 17 Dec (3) Memphis CBC; 18 Dec (1) Memphis (VBR); 28 Dec (2) Shelby Forest CBC; 28 Jan (1) Shelby Forest (VBR); 11 Feb (1) Reelfoot L (TOS). **Palm Warbler:** 16 Dec (1) Reelfoot CBC; 28 Dec (1) Savannah CBC. **Common Yellowthroat:** 1 Dec (5) Black Bayou (MCT).

Sparrow-Siskin: **American Tree Sparrow:** 20 Dec (2) Big Sandy (MCT); 28 Dec (1) Shelby Forest (Van Harris); 28 Dec (7) Savannah CBC; 30 Dec (1) Jackson CBC; 10 Feb (5) Lauderdale Co (WRP, VBR); 10 Feb (50) Dyer Co (WGC), max there; 18 Feb (45) Lake Co (KL), max there; 25 Feb (10) Benton Co (CAS, JD). **Chipping Sparrow:** 24 Jan (50) Shelby Forest (CHB, SCF, WRP, BHW), max. **Vesper Sparrow:** 6 Dec (1) Shelby Farms (CHB, SCF, WPP, WRP, VBR, BHW); 16 Dec (2) Reelfoot CBC; 17 Dec (7) Memphis CBC; 28 Dec (6) Savannah CBC; 10 Feb (1) Lauderdale Co (VBR); 25 Feb (1) Big Sandy (CAS, JD). **LeConte's Sparrow:** 16 Dec (12) Reelfoot CBC, max there; 20 Dec (5) Big Sandy (MCT); 28 Dec (4) Savannah CBC; 20 Jan/4 Feb (2/1) Britton Ford (JRW). **Fox Sparrow:** 16 Dec (71) Reelfoot CBC, max. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** 16 Dec (1) Reelfoot CBC; 17 Dec (2) Memphis CBC; 28 Dec (1) Savannah CBC. **Harris's Sparrow:** 3 Dec (1) Lake Co (JRW). **Lapland Longspur:** 17 Dec (243) Memphis CBC; 17 Dec (800) Lake Co (JRW), max there; 20 Dec (150) Big Sandy (MCT); 28 Dec (1675) Savannah CBC; 30 Dec (17) Jackson CBC. **Smith's Longspur:** 1 Dec into March (up to 10) Cates, Lake Co (JRW, MCT, m.ob.). **Red-winged Blackbird:** 30 Dec (1 million) Jackson CBC, max. **Western Meadowlark:** 10-20 Feb (up to 8) Lake Co (TOS, m.ob.); 17 Feb (3) EARTH Complex (JRW). **Rusty Blackbird:** 30 Dec (3000)

Jackson CBC, max. **Brewer's Blackbird:** 16 Dec (5) Reelfoot CBC; 17 Dec (25) Memphis CBC; 28 Dec (7) Savannah CBC; 30 Dec (3500) Jackson CBC; 10 Feb (4) Lake Co (TOS). **Common Grackle:** 30 Dec (500,000) Jackson CBC, max. **Brown-headed Cowbird:** 30 Dec (150,000) Jackson CBC, max. **Purple Finch:** just 10 reports; 4 Feb (9) Shelby Co (Gaynell Perry), max. **Red Crossbill:** 28 Dec (1) Savannah CBC. **Pine Siskin:** 6 reports; 5 Dec (12) Tipton Co (DDP), max.

Locations: Big Sandy-a unit of Tennessee NWR, Henry Co; Black Bayou-in Lake Co; Britton Ford-in Henry Co; Eagle Lake WMA-in Shelby Co; EARTH Complex-in Shelby Co; Everett L-in Dyer Co; Heloise-in Dyer Co; Pickwick SP-in Hardin Co; Reelfoot L-in Lake & Obion Cos; Robco L-in Shelby Co; Shelby Farms/Forest-in Shelby Co; TVA Lake-in Shelby Co.

W. Robert Peeples, 8205 Meadow Glen Drive, Germantown, TN 38138.

HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION — In the middle Tennessee area, the winter proved to be quite variable. In Nashville, November and January produced near normal temperatures, while December was frigid with a mean temperature 10 degrees below normal. By February, the average temperature was about 4 degrees above average. While precipitation for December and January was somewhat below normal, Nashville received almost twice its average rainfall in February, resulting in serious flooding of some rivers. Thus, the February temperatures and wet weather really made it seem as if spring was just around the corner. The highlight of this season was, without a doubt, the major invasion of American Tree Sparrows into the middle Tennessee region.

Goose-Owl: **Greater White-fronted Goose:** 27 Jan (4) Cross Cr. NWR (NTOS). **Northern Pintail:** 27 Jan (60+) Cross Cr. NWR (NTOS), max. **Surf Scoter:** 4 Dec (1) Center Hill L., DeKalb Co (SJS). **Common Goldeneye:** 27 Jan (2) Cross Cr. NWR (NTOS). **Bald Eagle:** 27 Jan (1 on nest) Cross Cr. NWR (NTOS). **Rough-legged Hawk:** 16 Dec (1) Williamson Co (Linda Kelly, Thomas Byrne). **Peregrine Falcon:** 8 Dec (1) downtown Nashville (Mary Zimmerman), being harassed by an American Kestrel. **Wild Turkey:** 16 Dec (45) Davidson Co (FCF, Cass Kennedy); 27 Jan (200+) Cross Cr. NWR (NTOS). **Sandhill Crane:** 20 Feb (5710 in several flocks migrating over) Pickett Co (Dave & Robbie Hassler, Howard Groce), max. **American Woodcock:** 23 Feb (4) Warner Parks, Davidson Co (NTOS); 26 Feb (6) Shelby Bottoms (Mark Hackney, JSe). **Barn Owl:** 16 Dec (1) Cookeville CBC, Putnam Co (Ivan Cordrey, Susan Ford, Daniel Combs).

Swallow-Finch: **Tree Swallow:** 26 Feb (1) Cane Cr. Park, Putnam Co (SJS), ers. **American Tree Sparrow:** 1 Dec (3+) Davidson Co (RHC); 23 Dec (16) Bell's Bend (PDC, GBC, JSe); 1 Jan (50) Hickory-Priest CBC (NTOS); 25 Feb (1) Bellevue, Davidson Co (FCF). **Chipping Sparrow:** 4 Feb (1) Bell's Bend (Tarcilla Fox, Dee Thompson); 24 Feb (1) Shelby Park (PDC). **Vesper Sparrow:** 16 Dec (1) Bell's Bend (PDC, GBC). **Lapland Longspur:** 20 Dec (1) Putnam Co (SJS), first Co record; 29 Jan (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC). **Purple Finch:** 12 Jan (several at feeder) Davidson Co (RHC); 17 Jan (1 f) Long Hunter SP, Davidson Co (John Froeschauer).

Locations: Bell's Bend-in Davidson Co; Cross Cr. NWR-in Stewart Co; Shelby Park/Bottoms-in Davidson Co.

PHILLIP D. CASTEEL, 2722 Bobby Avenue, Nashville, TN 37216.

CUMBERLAND PLATEAU/RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION — December was very cold throughout the region. An average temperature of 7 degrees below normal made this the third coldest December on record in the Tri-cities area. This cold persisted into early January, but the rest of the period had more seasonal temperatures. Precipitation was a bit below normal with little snowfall in the lowlands.

A widespread fallout of waterbirds on 3 December consisted mainly of Horned Grebes, Redheads, and Red-breasted Mergansers. The Chattanooga waterfront hosted a Long-tailed Duck and all three scoters. Rare appearances into the region were made by three northern invaders — Common Merganser, Rough-legged Hawk, and American Tree Sparrow. However, boreal finches were scarce. A few neotropical migrants lingered into early winter, most notably a Broad-winged Hawk and two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Two swallow species were early spring arrivals, one exceptionally so. Two Calliope Hummingbirds banded in regional backyards were the second and third for the state.

Loon-Heron: **Red-throated Loon:** 22 Jan (1) Chickamauga L (KAC, JN). **Common Loon:** 3 Dec (150) Tellico L (RDH, DM). **Pied-billed Grebe:** 27 Dec (150) Douglas L (KDE), max. **Horned Grebe:** 3 Dec (81) Chickamauga L (KAC); 3 Dec (42) Cove Lake SP (NeM); 3 Dec (40+) Tellico L (RDH, DM); 3 Dec (224) Boone L (RLK). **Eared Grebe:** 27 Dec (3) Douglas L (KDE). **Double-crested Cormorant:** thru season (14-40) Kingsport (RLK et al.). **Great Egret:** 3 Dec (1) Bledsoe Co (BJ); 31 Dec (1) Knox Co CBC. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** thru season (8-19) Kingsport (RLK et al.); 27 Dec (20) Douglas Dam, Sevier Co (KDE).

Waterfowl: **Greater White-fronted Goose:** 27 Dec (2) Bledsoe Co (BJ, JN); 28 Dec thru Feb (3) Brainerd Levee (BJ, JN, m.ob.); 5 Jan (2) Kingston Steam Plant (Boyd Sharp). **Snow Goose:** 1 Jan (10) Hiwassee CBC (KAC, Hayden Wilson); 16-17 Jan (3) Brainerd Levee (Jack Gentle). **Mute Swan:** 24 Dec (6 im) Chickamauga L (Libby Wolfe); 3 Jan thru Feb (3 ad, 2 im) Chickamauga L (Dan Williams, m.ob.); 8 Jan (1) Smith Bend, Rhea Co (Audrey Hoff); 29 Jan (2) Knoxville (DJT); 7 Feb (1) Cove Lake SP (NeM). **Gadwall:** 18 Feb (226) Kingsport (RLK), max. **Northern Shoveler:** 10 Jan (14) Kingsport (RLK), scarce in mid-winter. **Northern Pintail:** 5 Feb (34) Greene Co (DHM, ACL), max. **Canvasback:** 3 Dec (6) Tellico L (RDH, DM); 3 Dec (1) Boone L (RLK); 10 Jan (1) Kingsport (RLK); 21 Jan/1 Feb (1) Greene Co (DHM, ACL). **Redhead:** 3 Dec (150+) Cove Lake SP (NeM); 3 Dec (150+) Tellico L (RDH, DM); 3 Dec (70) Boone L (RLK). **Surf Scoter:** 3 Dec (1) Cove Lake SP (NeM); 9-29 Dec (1) Chickamauga L (Marty Paige, m.ob.). **White-winged Scoter:** 23 Dec-15 Jan (1 m) Chickamauga L (David Spicer, m.ob.). **Black Scoter:** 3-10 Dec (1 f) Chickamauga L (KAC, m.ob.). **Long-tailed Duck:** 11-16 Dec (1 f) Chickamauga L (Maria Derrick, m.ob.). **Hooded Merganser:** 23 Dec (134) Kingston Steam Plant (AW); 28 Dec (150+) Cove Lake SP (NeM). **Common Merganser:** 23 Dec (1 f) Kingston Steam Plant (AW);

30 Dec-1 Jan (1-5 f) Cove Lake SP (NeM); 31 Dec (1) Knox Co CBC; 1 Jan/5 Feb (1 f) Hiwassee Refuge (KAC et al.); 4/10 Jan (6-8 f) Boone L (RLK); 9 Jan (3 f) weir below Norris Dam, Anderson Co (AW); 10 Jan thru 18 Mar (1 f) Kingsport (RLK, m.ob.). **Red-breasted Merganser:** 3 Dec (200) Cove Lake SP (NeM); 3 Dec (50) Ft. Loudoun L, Loudon Co (RDH, DM); 3 Dec (250+) Tellico L (RDH, DM).

Osprey-Hummingbird: **Osprey:** 16 Dec (1) Greene Co (DHM), late. **Broad-winged Hawk:** 1 Jan (1 im) Hiwassee CBC (BJ, JN, David Aborn), very rare in winter. **Rough-legged Hawk:** 3/9 Dec, 5 Feb (1-2 dark morph) Sequatchie Valley, Bledsoe Co (BJ/Roi & Debbi Shannon/KAC, JN, Janice Chadwell), wintered here for a few years; 31 Dec (1 light morph) Knoxville CBC (DJT, AJT); 1 Jan (1 dark morph) Hiwassee CBC (DJT); 17 Feb (1 light morph) Monterey, Putnam Co (Barbara Stedman). **Golden Eagle:** 1 Jan (1 ad) Hiwassee CBC. **Merlin:** 16 Dec (1) Greene Co (DHM); 16 Dec (1) Chattanooga CBC; 30 Dec (1) Nickajack CBC; 31 Dec (1) Knox Co CBC. **Peregrine Falcon:** pair thru season at Falling Water Falls, Hamilton Co (Jack Gentle, Jonnie Sue Lyons); 7 Jan (1) Knoxville (Stephen & Rebecca Satterfield); 8 Jan (1) Hiwassee Refuge (Audrey Hoff); 3 Feb (1) Greene Co (DHM, ACL). **American Coot:** 30 Dec (17,094) Nickajack CBC. **Sandhill Crane:** 6 Dec (11,053) Hiwassee Refuge (Wally Akins, TWRA), max. **Least Sandpiper:** 1 Jan (20) Hiwassee CBC, a traditional wintering site; 25 Jan (1) Kingston Steam Plant (AW). **Laughing Gull:** 11 Jan (1) Cherokee Lake (RLK); 12 Feb (1) Chickamauga L (KAC et al.). **Bonaparte's Gull:** 11 Jan (1700) Cherokee L (RLK), max. **Ring-billed Gull:** 27 Dec/11 Jan (3000) Douglas L/Cherokee L (KDE/RLK), max. **Eurasian Collared-Dove:** 16 Dec (198) Chattanooga CBC, new high count in state; 7 Jan (1) Cherokee Dam, Grainger Co (DJT). **Barn Owl:** thru season (2) Johnson City (RLK). **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD:** thru 19 Dec (1) Monterey, Putnam Co (Betty Bright), continuation from fall; 22-28 Jan (1 im. m.) Hamilton Co (Diane Whitman, banded by Bob Sargent), 3rd state record. **Rufous Hummingbird:** 25 Nov (1 f) Hamilton Co (Clayton & Mary Graham, banded by Fred Moore); 2/3 Dec (1 m/1 f) Hamilton Co (Jonnie Sue Lyons/Ellen Whitaker; both banded by CAS); other individuals were banded by Fred Moore in Knoxville, Loudon (Loudon Co), and Rogersville (Hawkins Co).

Shrike-Catbird: **Loggerhead Shrike:** thru season (1-2 at 6 sites) Greene Co (DHM, ACL). **Blue-headed Vireo:** 26 Feb (1) Oak Ridge Reservation, Anderson Co (Jake John Beaulieu), ers. **Common Raven:** 12 Dec (2) Gray, Washington Co (AJT); 4 Jan (2) Tri-cities Airport, Sullivan Co (RLK); 6 Jan (1) Conklin, Washington Co (RLK). **Horned Lark:** 30 Dec (426) Nickajack CBC, max; 3 Jan/9 Feb (21/4) Hamilton Co (John Henderson/Clyde Blum), rare there. **Purple Martin:** 30 Jan (1 m) Cove Lake SP (NeM), record early in East Tenn. **Tree Swallow:** 25 Feb (1) Greene Co (DHM), ers; 26 Feb (4) Austin Springs, Washington Co (RLK), ties local arrival date. **Brown-headed Nuthatch:** 16 Dec (1) Anderson Co Park, Norris CBC (Charles Nicholson), first Co record; 23 Dec/7 Jan (1-2) Kingston Steam Plant (AW/CM). **Sedge Wren:** 16 Dec (2) Chattanooga CBC (KAC); 30 Dec (1) Nickajack CBC; 20 Jan (1) Kyker Bottoms, Blount Co (AW et al.). **Marsh Wren:** 16 Dec (1) Chattanooga CBC (KAC). **Gray Catbird:** 6 Dec (1) Sullivan Co (Larry McDaniel, RLK).

Warbler-Siskin: **Orange-crowned Warbler:** 16 Dec (2) Chattanooga CBC; 31 Dec (1) Knox Co CBC; 7 Jan (1) Hamilton Co (Robin Rudd). **Yellow-throated Warbler:** 31 Dec (1) Knox Co CBC (Susan Stout). **Pine Warbler:** 3/16 Dec (2) Greene Co (DHM); 6 Jan (1) Washington Co (RLK). **Palm Warbler:** 10 Dec (1) Greene Co (DHM); 11 Jan (2) Cherokee Dam, Jefferson Co side (RLK); 17 Jan (2) Brainerd Levee (KAC, JN). **American Tree Sparrow:** 2-3 Jan (1) Amnicola Marsh, Hamilton Co (KAC, BJ, JN, Janice Chadwell); 5-10 Jan (1-2) Kingston Steam Plant (AW, Boyd Sharp, m.ob.). **Chipping Sparrow:** 28 Jan/11 Feb (2-20) Greene Co (DHM, ACL). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 7 Dec (1 im. m. at feeder) Johnson City (Janet Brown); 6-8 Dec (1 ad. m at feeder) Knoxville (Bill & Allison McNutt). **Red-winged Blackbird:** 8 Feb (250,000) Greene Co (JWC, Don Holt), with a half-million European Starlings. **Brewer's Blackbird:** 8 Feb (1) Sequatchie Co (BJ). **Brown-headed Cowbird:** 8 Feb (20,000) Greene Co (JWC, Don Holt), with above red-wings & starlings. **Purple Finch:** scarce. **Pine Siskin:** a few on Signal Mtn, Hamilton Co (fide KAC), only report.

Locations: Boone L-in Sullivan & Washington Cos; Brainerd Levee-in Hamilton Co; Cherokee L-in Jefferson, Grainger, & Hamblen Cos; Chickamauga L-in Hamilton Co; Cove Lake SP-in Campbell Co; Douglas L-in Jefferson & Sevier Cos; Hiwassee Refuge-primarily in Meigs Co; Kingsport-in Sullivan Co; Kingston Steam Plant-in Roane Co; Nickajack L-in Marion Co; Tellico L-Monroe Co.

RICHARD L. KNIGHT, 804 North Hills Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604.

EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION — A major outbreak of the Southern Pine Beetle resulted in hundreds of acres of newly dead pines. These beetles created a food bonanza for some species, especially woodpeckers. For example, on the Bristol Christmas Bird Count, nine Hairy Woodpeckers and seven Downy Woodpeckers were found in less than an acre area of dead pines. A Great Blue Heron rookery was discovered in Sullivan County, a first there. Fairly good numbers of waterfowl were reported. Northern Finches were generally scarce.

Loon-Woodpecker: **Common Loon:** 16 Dec/14 Jan (2) Watauga L (RLK); 17 Feb (2) S. Holston L (Joe McGuiness). **Horned Grebe:** 3 Dec (42) S. Holston L (JWC), max; 14 Jan (30) Watauga L (RLK). **Eared Grebe:** 2-28 Jan (11) S. Holston L (RLK). **Great Blue Heron:** 27 Feb (12 nests) Holston Valley (JWC), rookery active last year (fide local resident), but not known to birders. **Black Vulture:** 23 Dec (30) GSMNP CBC. **Redhead:** 5 Jan (15) Wilbur L (RLK), max there; 14 Jan (20) S. Holston weir (DHM), max there; 28 Feb (65) S. Holston L (JWC, Bert Hale), max. **Greater Scaup:** 3 Dec-14 Jan (2) S. Holston weir (JWC, RLK, DHM). **Common Goldeneye:** 27 Dec-2 Jan (1) S. Holston weir (JWC). **Bufflehead:** 3 Dec (183) S. Holston weir (JWC), max there; 13 Jan (194) Wilbur L (RLK), max. **Hooded Merganser:** 3 Dec (264) Middlebrook L., Sullivan Co (JWC), max. **Common Merganser:** 3 Dec (6) S. Holston weir (JWC). **Red-breasted Merganser:** 3 Dec (32) S. Holston L (Larry McDaniel, H. P. Langridge). **Ruddy Duck:** 3 Dec (53) S. Holston L (JWC), max. **Bald Eagle:** 16 Dec/14 Jan (1 im) Watauga L (RLK). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** 30 Dec (4) Cades Cove CBC. Merlin: 20 Dec (1) Newfound Gap, GSMNP (CM). **Sandhill Crane:** 26 Dec-18 Feb (3) Holston

Valley (JWC , m. ob.), 4th Co record. **Least Sandpiper:** 2 Jan (1) S. Holston L (RLK). **Barn Owl:** 23 Dec (1) Shady Valley CBC. **Northern Saw-whet Owl:** 30 Dec/12 Feb (1) Cades Cove (CM). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** 31 Dec (1) Bristol CBC, only report.

Phoebe-Grosbeak: **Eastern Phoebe:** 16 Dec (12) Elizabethton CBC, max. **Black-capped Chickadee:** 23 Dec (22) GSMNP CBC; 30 Dec (5) Cades Cove CBC. **Eastern Bluebird:** 16 Dec (165) Elizabethton CBC, record high. **Cedar Waxwing:** 31 Dec (2830) Bristol CBC, very high count, more than double previous record high. **American Pipit:** 3 Dec (35) Holston Valley (JWC), max. **Pine Warbler:** 23 Dec (1) Mountain City, on Shady Valley CBC (RLK); 6 Feb (1 singing) Wilbur L (Fred Alsop). **Palm Warbler:** 19 Dec (1) Townsend, Blount Co (CM). **Savannah Sparrow:** 28 Jan (15) Quarry Bog (RLK), max. **LeConte's Sparrow:** 23 Dec/28 Jan (2/1) Quarry Bog (H. P. Langridge, Ron Carrico, Rob Biller/RLK), continuation from fall, still just 2nd NE Tenn record & 1st over-wintering. **Fox Sparrow:** 19 Dec (9) GSMNP (CM), max. **White-crowned Sparrow:** 31 Dec (233) Bristol CBC, high. **Purple Finch:** 23 Dec thru Feb (2-5) Holston Valley (Richard Lewis), very few other reports. **Pine Siskin:** early Feb (20+) Erwin, Unicoi Co (Joe McGuiness); late Feb (10+) Hampton, Carter Co (Bryan Stevens). **Evening Grosbeak:** none reported.

Locations: Cades Cove-in Great Smoky Mountains National Park; GSMNP-Great Smoky Mountains National Park; Holston Valley-in Sullivan Co; Quarry Bog-in Shady Valley, Johnson Co; S. Holston L-in Sullivan Co; S. Holston weir-in Sullivan Co; Watauga L-in Carter & Johnson Cos; Wilbur L-in Carter Co.

RICHARD P. LEWIS, 407 V.I. Ranch Road, Bristol, TN 37620.

OBSERVERS

CHB - Carolyn H. Bullock
KAC - Kevin A. Calhoon
GBC - Gary B. Casey
PDC - Phillip D. Casteel
JWC - J. Wallace Coffey
RHC - Richard H. Connors
WGC - W. Glen Criswell
JD - Jay Desgrosellier
KDE - K. Dean Edwards
FCF - Francis C. Fekel
SCF - Sue C. Ferguson
MAG - Mark A. Greene
RDH - Ron D. Hoff
BJ - Bonnie Johnson
RLK - Richard L. Knight
KL - Ken Leggett
ACL - Alice C. Loftin
DHM - Don H. Miller
NaM - Nancy Moore
NeM - Nell Moore
CM - Charlie Muise
DM - Dollyann Myers
JN - Judy Newsome
WPP - William P. Peeples
WRP - W. Robert Peeples
DDP - Dick D. Preston
VBR - Virginia B. Reynolds
JSe - Jennifer Serrano
CAS - Chris A. Sloan
SJS - Stephen J. Stedman
AJT - Allan J. Trently
DJT - David J. Trently
MCT - Michael C. Todd
MGW - Martha G. Waldron
AW - Anthony Whitted
BHW - Barbara H. Wilson
JRW - Jeff R. Wilson

NTOS - Nashville chapter, TOS
TOS - Tennessee Ornithological Society

ERRATA: TOS MEMBERSHIP LIST

Sincere apologies are due the following members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society who, thanks to a computer glitch, were left out of the membership list published in the December 2000 issue of *The Migrant*.

Benton Basham
PO Box 8
Viola, TN 37394-0008
423-396-3458

Roger B. Clapp
Museum Specialist
USGS/PWRC
National Museum of Natural History
Washington, DC 20560

Holly Overton
3316 Bunker Hill Dr
Knoxville, TN 37920
865-577-8991

Robert R. Sargent
7570 Mac Hicks Road
Trussville, AL 35173
205-681-2888

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

The Migrant records observations and studies of birds in Tennessee and adjacent areas.

SUBMISSIONS: The original and two copies of the manuscript should be sent to the *new* Editor: Christopher J. Welsh, 5337 Hickory Hollow Road, Knoxville, TN 37919. Manuscripts that have been published in other journals should *not* be submitted. Electronic copies on disk or sent by e-mail to <cwelsh@utk.edu> are greatly appreciated.

MATERIAL: The subject matter should relate to some phase of Tennessee ornithology. It should be original, factual, concise, and scientifically accurate.

STYLE: Both articles and short notes are solicited; recent issues of *The Migrant* should be used as a guide in the preparation of manuscripts. Where more detail is needed, reference should be made to the *CBE Style Manual;* this book is available at many public libraries and from the Council of Biology Editors, Inc., 111 East Wacker Drive, Suite 3200, Chicago, IL 60601-4298.

COPY: Manuscripts should be typed *double-spaced* on 8.5 x 11" paper with adequate margins for editorial notations. Tables and figures should be prepared on separate sheets with appropriate headings; see *CBE Style Manual* for examples of appropriate form for tables. Photographs intended for reproduction should be sharp with good contrast on glossy white paper; black-and-white photographs will usually reproduce better than color photographs. Weights, measurements, and distances should be in metric units. Dates should be in "continental" form (e.g., 16 March 1997). Use the 24-hour clock (e.g., 0500 or 1900).

NOMENCLATURE: The scientific name of a species should be given after the first use of the full common name in the text. The scientific name should be underlined and in parentheses. Names should follow the *A. O. U. Check-list of North American Birds* (seventh edition, 1998, or supplements).

TITLE: The title should be concise, specific, and descriptive.

ABSTRACT: Manuscripts of five or more typed pages should include an abstract. The abstract should be less then 5% of the length of the manuscript. It should include a brief explanation of why the research was done, the major results, and why the results are important.

LITERATURE CITED: List all literature citations in a "Literature Cited" section at the end of the text. Text citations should include the author and year.

IDENTIFICATION: Manuscripts including reports of rare or unusual species or of species at atypical times should include: date and time, light and weather conditions, exact location, habitat, optical equipment, distance, behavior of bird, comparison with other similar species, characteristic markings, experience of observer, other observers verifying the identification, and reference works consulted.

REPRINTS: Reprints are available to authors on request. Billing to authors will be through the TOS Treasurer. Request for reprints must be made well in advance of printing.

SEASON REPORTS: Observations that are to be considered for publication in "The Season" section should be mailed to the appropriate Regional Compiler. Consult a recent issue of *The Migrant* for the name and address of the compiler.

CONTENTS

DEMOGRAPHICS, ATTITUDES AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PEOPLE ATTENDING AN EAST TENNESSEE BIRDING FESTIVAL
David A. Aborn 49

MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2001 TOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Knox Martin 57

2001 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: DR. FRED ALSOP, III
Chris Sloan 60

2001 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: SUSAN McWHIRTER
Martha Waldron 61

BOOK REVIEW: *BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA: LIFE HISTORIES OF MORE THAN 930 SPECIES*
Charlie Muise 62

THE WINTER SEASON: 1 DECEMBER 2000-28 FEBRUARY 2001
Richard L. Knight 65

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION
W. Robert Peeples 67

HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION
Phillip D. Casteel 70

CUMBERLAND PLATEAU/RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION
Richard L. Knight 71

EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION
Richard P. Lewis 73

ERRATA: TOS MEMBERSHIP LIST 76